

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 were examined. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 6, 8, and 14-16. The claims have been amended and cancelled as noted above. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Abstract has been amended to reduce its length to below 150 words. Thus, the objection to the Abstract is believed to be overcome.

Claims 4, 7, 10, 12, and 16 were rejected for indefiniteness. Support for "the supporting surface" in claim 4 has been added to claim 1. Each of the other claims has been amended to overcome the stated rejection.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-13 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,509,290 to Faivre. Without conceding the correctness of this rejection, Applicants note that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations previously set forth in dependent claims 5 and 6. Thus, it is believed that independent claim 1, as well as all remaining dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 17 corresponds to prior independent claim 1 combined with the limitations set forth in prior dependent claim 8. As independent claim 8 was indicated as being allowable, it is believed that new independent claim 17, as well as claims 18-31 are allowable.

New independent claim 32 is a combination of prior independent claim 1 and prior dependent claim 14. As claim 14 was indicated as being allowable, it is believed that new independent claim 32, as well as claims 33-44 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 45 combines the limitations of prior independent claim 12 and prior dependent claim 15. Again, as prior dependent claim 15 was indicated as being

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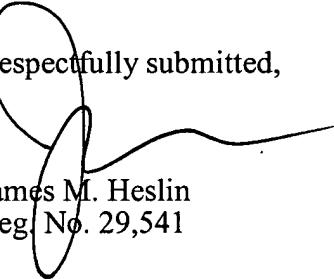
allowable, it is believed that new independent claim 45, as well as claims 46-57 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 59 is a combination of prior independent claim 1 and prior dependent claim 16. As prior dependent claim 16 was indicated as being allowable, it is believed that claim 59 and all claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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